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RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF STRATHAM,

FOR THE

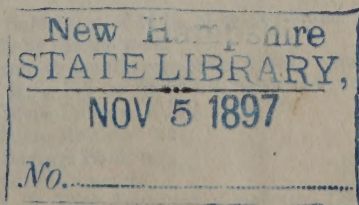
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1866.

ALSO THE

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.



EXETER:

PRINTED BY SAMUEL HALL,

1866.

RECEIVED AND EXAMINED

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

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1901

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF STRATHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1866.

ACCOUNT OF COLLECTOR JOHN W. WIGGIN.

Amount of Tax committed to him for collection, \$8,663 05

COLLECTOR WIGGIN'S DISCHARGE.

Paid State Tax	\$2,722 50
County Tax	756 34
Selectmen in cash,	4,834 35
Non-resident highway tax worked out	5 42
Abatement of taxes	96 86
Three per cent. discount	160 95
Collector's Services	86 63
	—————\$8,663 05

STRATHAM, March 1st, 1865.

This day examined the foregoing accounts of John W. Wiggin, and find them fairly brought, rightly cast, well vouched, and balanced.

FREEMAN H. BURLEIGH, }
HEZEKIAH SCAMMON, } *Auditors.*

MONEY RECEIVED BY THE SELECTMEN.

Received of the Selectmen of 1865, of money found in their hands by the auditors,	\$1,090 27
of the county for the support of county paupers,	935 22
of the State, bill for State aid, furnished to families,	1,013 47
of the State Literary Fund,	17 00
of the State Railroad tax,	320 74
of the Savings Bank tax,	187 59
of the State on notes,	3,356 31
of J. B. Burleigh Surveyor of highway, 1864,	4 03
of M. M. Smith, State aid over paid,	2 00
money hired since March 1st, 1865,	4,066 81
of Collector Wiggin in cash,	4,834 35
	—————\$15,827 79

SELECTMEN'S DISCHARGE.

Out-standing Demands.

Paid N. B. Jenness on note,	\$200 00
B. F. Rollins note in full,	306 75
N. B. Jenness note in full,	430 64
Addison Wiggin note in full,	102 10
Albert D. Wiggin note in full,	159 42
“ “ “	191 97
J. H. Jones note in full,	577 81
W. Wentworth note in full,	95 17
E. Bloomer Jewell note in full,	106 00
Mary A. Jones note in full,	106 31
Geo. J. Robinson note in full,	44 07
“ “ “	114 13
Geo. F. Smith note in full,	279 07
Hannah E. Wiggin note in full,	106 67
M. F. Young note in full,	306 98
Charles Holt note in full,	58 21
John N. Tukesbury note in full,	157 52
“ “ “	115 06
“ “ “	200 22
“ “ “	105 17
“ “ “	314 45
“ “ “	206 33
Nathan Adams note in full,	107 75
“ “ “	104 27
James Dodge note in full,	1,477 50
Sarah W. Chase note in full,	235 87
Charles W. Jones note in full,	636 60
“ “ “	110 00
“ “ “	112 86
Robert B. Weeks note in full,	218 21
Shadrach Robinson note in full,	248 59
Henry S. Cate note in full,	204 43
Alonzo Wentworth note in full,	102 00
Mark Stockbridge note in full,	402 00
Samuel Sinclair note in full,	518 25
F. L. Rundlett note in part,	50 00
“ “ “	50 00
W. Wentworth note in part,	10 00
C. Holt note in part,	20 00
“ “ “	39 00
A. Wentworth note in part,	300 00
Geo. F. Smith note in part,	50 00
M. F. Young note in part,	200 00
A Wentworth note in part,	60 00

C. Holt note in part,	25 00
H. S. Cate note in part,	74 57
Nathan Adams note in part,	88 00
J. H. Jones note in part,	30 00
A Wentworth note in part,	74 24
E. C. Foss, for interest on note,	4 50
H. S Cate, " "	16 02
S. Cate, " "	12 00
Ezra Barker " "	30 00
S. Sinclair, " "	36 00
Julia Foss, " "	6 00
E. R. Thompson, " "	18 00
F. A. Otis, " "	19 00
M. Roberts, " "	36 00
E. C. Foss, " "	7 50
R. Scammon, " "	9 00
L. Lang, " "	30 90
L. Jewell, " "	27 00
Geo. Barker, " "	16 00
Otis B. French, " "	35 88
Interest on note held against the town,	270 00
" " " "	90 00
" " " "	36 00
" " " "	96 00
" " " "	18 00
" " " "	30 00
" " " "	90 00
" " " "	180 00
J. W. Odlin, Express '62,	3 60
G. B. Fifield, damage by dogs,	8 00
J. S. Staples, room rent,	2 50
H. H. Staples, Town Officer,	1 00
J. L. Jewell, Selectmen's expenses,	5 00
H. P. Wingate, fence posts,	5 40
J. L. Hoag, abatement of dog tax,	1 00
William Wiggin board of Dolly Wiggin,	3 00
E. M. C. Lane, damage by dogs,	2 00
W. G. Brown, Supt. School Committee,	20 00
D. W. Hatch, ringing bell,	3 00
Samuel Hall, printing town accounts,	20 00
G. H. Odell medical attendance,	4 00
A. Wiggin services as selectman '64	5 75
R. B. Smith, abatement,	23
C. Holt, town farm, benefit of,	39 00
C. Holt, services as Supt.	200 00
Levi Hoag, abatement '64	2 30
A. D. Wiggin, abatement '64,	3 73
R. L. R. Cheney, abatement '64,	3 95

C. E. Brewster, abatement dog tax '63,	1 00
J. L. Jewell, expense after auditing,	6 50
J. L. Jewell, to helping Mrs. Medwood,	2 50

Sundry Expenses.

Leonard Lang, services of the Cram Lot,	1 00
C. H. Goodwin, Stationery,	94
F. Grant, Surveyors' books,	65
F. Grant, Stationery,	1 35
B. F. Clark, Justice fees,	33
B. D. Loughton, Justice fees,	17
J. O. Wiggin, insurance policy,	3 78
J. W. Odlin, bill,	1 26
M. A. Staples, postage stamps,	1 00
C. Holt, for benefit town farm,	50 00
Exeter tax on town farm,	23 89
Odlin's Express to Concord for money,	2 50
L. Lang, abatement on money at interest,	3 80
C. Holt, for benefit of town farm,	50 00
C. H. Goodwin, for stationery,	1 00
G. E. Lane, for stationery,	1 00
N. E. Norton, watering trough,	3 00
N. E. Norton, abatement,	1 90
A. Wiggin, " "	1 90
L. Clough, " "	5 70
J. W. Foss, " "	1 90
A. R. Wiggin, " '64,	3 45
C. Holt, services as Sup't and help,	275 61
Geo. E. Lane, services as Town Clerk and extras,	15 60
Z. J. Wiggin, abatement on dog and stock in trade,	1 95
J. L. Jewell, abatement on steer,	76
G. H. Odell, Physician's bill,	75 00
S. Scammon, abatement on tax,	19 76
J. O. Wiggin, going to Manchester twice,	10 00
Insurance on farm buildings,	6 63
P. Merrill, Selectmen's expenses,	2 50
H. H. Staples, " "	3 25
R. Scammon, for pair of oxen for farm,	270 00
" Treasurer,	12 00
" Selectmen's expenses,	9 00
F. H. Burleigh, services as Auditor,	1 50
H. Scammon, " " "	1 50
Nonresident highway tax worked out,	5 43

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid John French, breaking roads 1864,	\$9 39
J. B. Wiggin, work on highway, "	5 50
N. Wiggin, breaking roads, "	12 06
J. S. Chase, gravel for highway, "	9 17
Z. J. Wiggin, breaking roads, "	8 62
J. B. Burleigh, " " "	13 75
J. J. Lane, " " "	2 16
J. Stockbridge, " " "	1 00
Caleb Wiggin, breaking roads and bridge plank,	11 85
George Wingate, " " "	20 41
B. D. Loughton, work more than tax,	90
H. Scammon, breaking roads,	1 50

SCHOOLS.

Paid Elisha Chase, Jr., for benefit of School District, No. 1,	\$175 00
J. B. Wiggin, " " " No. 2,	175 00
J. O. Wiggin, " " " No. 3,	175 00
J. H. Rundlett, " " " No. 4,	175 00

PRUDENTIAL AND SUP'NDING COMMITTEES' SERVICES.

Paid B. D. Loughton, services as Superintending Committee,	\$25 00
E. Chase, Jr., services as Prudential Committee, 1865,	3 00
J. B. Wiggin, " " " "	3 00
J. O. Wiggin, " " " "	3 00
J. H. Rundlett, " " " "	3 50
T. Piper, for services in " " " 1864,	3 00

REPAIRS ON SCHOOLHOUSES.

Paid E. Chase, Jr., repairs on Schoolhouse, No. 1,	\$15 05
J. B. Wiggin, " " " No. 2,	7 80
J. O. Wiggin, " " " No. 3,	6 75
J. H. Rundlett, " " " No. 4,	7 21
T. Piper, " " " No. 3, in 1864,	33 71

STATE AID.

Paid in State aid to families,	344 27
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COUNTY POOR.

Paid in expenses for County Poor not at the Farm,	411 40
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TOWN OF STRATHAM TO RICHARD SCAMMON		Dr.
March 16.	To going to J. L. Jewell's,	\$0 75
21.	Do. to P. Merrill's on business,	30
April 1.	To settling with Supt. of Farm and examining wood lots,	1 50
10.	To hiring money and paying bills,	1 50
11, 12.	Making assessments,	3 00
	Attending Jury meeting,	50
	To making taxes and recording the same,	7 00
28.	To one day in session,	1 50
May 5.	To P. Merrill's writing, and serving notice on Mark Stockbridge,	75
8.	To Mr. Staples' and Mark Stockbridge's,	75
10.	To B. F. Clark's and Exeter,	50
11.	To Town Farm, to fill application for insurance,	25
14.	To paying State aid, and money to County poor, To J. L. Jewell's and Mr. Rundlett's, on claim for bounty,	50 75
	To Farm and other town business,	50
31.	To Mr. Staples', Loughton's, Brown's and J. L. Jewell's, on bounty claims against the State,	75
June 15.	To getting evidence in relation to State Aid bill,	75
16.	P. Merrill's and Exeter,	75
July 6, 7.	To ascertaining the amount of State, Town, and individual bounties paid to soldiers,	2 50
12.	To paying County poor,	30
Aug. 11.	To M. F. Young's, and paying County poor,	50
19.	To Exeter, to pay interest on note,	30
Sept. 6.	To Portsmouth on Huntress case and paying County poor,	2 50
8.	To J. B. Wiggin and J. L. Jewell on business,	75
23.	To pay county poor and to Greenland,	1 50
26.	To Exeter to pay tax on town farm,	25
"	To attending jury meeting,	50
Oct. 13.	To P. Merrill's to renew note,	25
14.	To N. Adams to pay interest and notes,	75
16.	To get a nurse for Miss. Philpot,	50
	To attending jury meeting,	25
	To farm to get account of county poor,	50
	To Portsmouth to settle with the county,	2 50
Nov. 8.	To attending jury meeting,	50
	To one half day and evening in session at farm,	1 00
Dec. 27.	To Mr. Staples revising jurors,	50
28.	To S. Jones to pay notes,	50
Jan. 5.	To attending jury meeting,	50

Jan.	10.	To L. Jewell's, G. Barker's, and other town business,	75
	12.	To filling blank of State Auditor and examining records for same,	1 50
	16.	To town farm to get account of County poor,	50
	19.	To Geo. E. Lane's to get affidavit,	50
	24.	To Exeter to settle with county,	75
Feb.	16.	To appointing town clerk and evening session at Staples' paying county poor,	75
	22.	To going to Concord to settle with Treasurer and pay State tax,	5 00
	23.	To day and evening session at the farm,	1 50
	24.	To preparing and posting Warrants and check list,	1 50
	27.	To evening in session,	50
	28.	To going to pay note and other town business,	50
March	1.	To day and evening auditing accounts,	1 50
			<hr/>
			\$54 40
My bill as presented, allowed and audited was,			48 20
For which I received payment, there being an error at the time, of			6 20

RICHARD SCAMMON.

STRATHAM, March 2, 1866.

TOWN OF STRATHAM TO P. MERRILL,			Dr.
1865			
April	1.	To one day at town farm and Cram lot,	\$1 50
"		3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. Five days taking inventory,	7 50
"		11. & 12. To two days making assessment,	3 00
"	28.	To one day in session,	1 50
"	29.	To appointing Surveyors and distributing Books,	75
1866.			
Jan.	4.	To one day at Portsmouth,	3 00
		To other services during the year,	22 45
			<hr/>
			\$39 70

Received Payment,

P. MERRILL.

Stratham, Feb. 28, 1866.

TOWN OF STRATHAM TO HENRY H. STAPLES, Dr.

1865.			
March. 2 & 3.	To services after auditing,	\$4 00	
	To Stationery, &c.	50	
" 23.	To R. Scammon's and A. Wiggin's on business,	1 00	
April 1.	To town farm and Cram lot,	2 00	
" 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7.	To five days taking inventory,	10 00	
" 11 & 12.	To two days making assessment,	4 00	
	To other services during the year,	15 00	
	To cash paid transient poor,	50	
			\$37 00

Received Payment,

HENRY H. STAPLES.

Stratham, March 1, 1866.

RECAPITULATION.

Outstanding demands,	\$11,288 55
Sundry expenses,	871 01
Highways and Bridges,	96 31
Superintending Committee,	25 00
Prudential Committees,	15 00
Schools,	700 00
Repairs on Schoolhouses,	70 52
State aid to Families,	344 27
County Poor,	411 40
Selectmen's Bills,	124 90
Cash in the Selectmen's hands,	1,880 83
Total,	\$15,827 79

STRATHAM, MARCH, 1st. 1866.

This day examined the foregoing accounts, and find them fairly brought, rightly cast, and vouched, and a balance of eighteen hundred and eighty dollars and eighty three cents in their hands.

FREEMAN H. BURLEIGH, }
HEZEKIAH SCAMMON. } AUDITORS.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN.

There are notes held against the Town which amount,	
March 1st, 1866, to	\$26,694 42
Demands not brought forward estimated at	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$26,794 42

MEANS OF PAYMENT.

Cash in the Selectmen's hands,	\$1,880 85
Due from the County,	132 00
Due from the State for aid paid to families,	191 13
Due on claims not yet allowed, and uncertain,	2,400 00
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	4,603 96
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Amount of Town Debt,	\$22,190 46

TOWN FARM.

Expenditures,	1,116 48
Superintendent, and help,	277 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,393 48
	<hr/>
General Receipts	\$631 47
Timber Sold,	86 34
Support of County Poor at Farm,	486 94
Hay and lumber more than last year,	100 00
Wood furnished Sundry persons,	48 00
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	\$1,352 75
	<hr/>
Balance against the Farm,	\$40 73

TOWN DEBT.

Amount of Town Debt March 1, 1865,	\$24,310 96
" " " " March 1, 1866,	22,190 46
	<hr/>
Amount of Town Debt paid, is	\$2,120 50

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1866.

REPORT.

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.

ELISHA CHASE, Prudential Committee.

Teacher of the Summer School, Miss ANNIE J. CHASE. Miss Chase, although inexperienced, appeared not only to understand her duty, but qualified to advance her pupils. As a general thing, good order prevailed, the classes were well arranged and the scholars acquitted themselves in an acceptable and creditable manner.

The Winter School was under the control of Mr. GEORGE E. LANE. We regret to state that Mr. Lane, notwithstanding his earnest efforts to advance his pupils and so sustain the hitherto good reputation of the school, was unsuccessful. We think he failed in consequence of believing that a persuasive policy was alone sufficient for the maintenance of good order in the school room. We apprehend that long before the close of the term, he became fully convinced of the fallacy of his views. His scholars, generally speaking, took advantage of his amiable disposition, and after a day or two of study and observation in acquiring "the lay of the land," in which study, as events have shown, they proved themselves extremely proficient, began to show the quality of the stuff they were made of. The teacher's best efforts, in his peculiar line, to govern and restrain them, were of no lasting benefit. In their downward course from bad to worse,

"The trot became a gallop soon
In spite of curb and rein."

During school hours they did almost every thing it would seem, but study. In the use of the jackknife they exhibited a high order of talent, as is discernable in every part of the house by multitudinous specimens of artistic skill, evincing immense imaginative faculties, combined with a perseverance truly amazing. The hour of intermission, so far as we can learn, was, for the most part, spent in cutting holes of a large calibre through the doors and partitions, the throwing of stones and other mis-

wiles through the windows, and other riotous proceedings; the which seemed to afford the participants an immense deal of amusement; so that at least, the house and appurtenances, wore the appearance of having sustained a regular siege, and had been finally carried by storm.

The school Register also presents a most melancholy appearance, being literally covered with black marks, denoting absence and tardiness, showing, it would seem, utter indifference on the part of the parents, as to "whether school kept or not." The school opened with quite a large number of scholars as the Schedule will show, but it would appear that Fate or some evil influence had decided against its prosperity. The attendance soon began to decrease, and continued to do so to the end.— "Growing small by degrees and beautifully less." How much of blame may be attached to the people of the district on account of this unfortunate state of affairs, we will not decide upon. It is to be hoped that a teacher may be found to take charge of this school the coming winter, who is not only qualified to teach, but possessed of stamina and backbone equal to the complete subjugation of these refractory youngsters, who have not only disgraced themselves but brought reproach upon the district. Without such a teacher, the school, instead of being what it should be, will prove but a hot-bed of vice and immorality.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.

JAMES B. WIGGIN, Prudential Committee.

Teacher of the Summer School, Miss ELLEN M. TUCKER. This school has been under the instruction of Miss Tucker, at intervals, some three or four terms. Being a practical, efficient and thorough teacher, the scholars made a decided improvement in their studies. Good order prevailed and the right feeling appeared to exist between the teacher and her pupils.

The Winter School was kept by Mr. HEZEKIAH SCAMMON. This school, we regret to say, did not *fully* come up to our wishes or expectations. The teacher evidently used his best efforts to establish and maintain order and to advance his pupils, and was successful to a certain degree. A portion of the larger scholars seemed to care little or nothing about their studies. They displayed a restiveness, and at times, even a disposition to become disorderly, which operated not only against themselves, but to the disadvantage of the younger scholars. The truth is, the government of the school appeared defective; the time of the teacher was too much taken up in trying to preserve order, thereby preventing

him from giving that attention to the lessons and recitations the wants of his pupils required. At our last visit, we noticed that the school had greatly fallen off in number; not more than one half of the scholars registered being present, these, we are pleased to state, were orderly and appeared interested in their studies. Progress was observable in the several branches reviewed, particularly in reading and spelling.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE.

JOHN O. WIGGIN, Prudential Committee.

The Summer School was taught by Miss CARRIE L. PIPER, whom we regard as an energetic, efficient and thorough teacher. The school appeared decidedly well; there was regularity and order in her management and progress was the order of the day. In such hands the school could not fail to prosper.

The Winter School was under the tuition of Mr. C. I. DE MERRITTE. The teacher apparently exerted himself to discharge his duties. He was, however, according to our standard, a little too theoretical and visionary, and considerably less practical in his views and management than he should have been, for a completely successful termination of his labors. Had he shown more efficiency in government, we doubt not his scholars would have made more proficiency in their studies. Due allowance should be made on account of his comparative youth and inexperience.

We would remark in this connection, that this school contains some excellent scholars, particularly the female portion, and all appear well disposed and desirous of further advancement. We would bespeak for it the services of a practical, well qualified and discreet teacher, during the coming winter. We visited this school at intervals, four times during the term, and certainly intended to make it another visit on the day of its close, but not knowing the time designated for its termination, much to our regret, failed to do so.

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR.

J. H. RUNDLETT, Prudential Committee.

The Summer School was under the control of Miss M. E. CATE. The school, though quite small, appeared well during the several visits of the Committee. Good order prevailed, the exercises were respectable, and the scholars showed a disposition to improve.

The Winter School was intrusted to the care of Miss MARY W. C. DEARBORN, who by her constant and unwearied efforts in behalf of the

school, fully established for herself an excellent reputation as a teacher. Good order prevailed and a good understanding existed between the teacher and her pupils. It was evident that her services were appreciated, and as a matter of course, good progress was made in the various branches pursued.

REMARKS.

It will be observed by the careful reader, that the Summer schools, taken as a whole, were superior to the Winter Schools. Various reasons may be assigned for this difference. The former being principally composed of younger scholars, were tractable and easily moulded to the wishes and requirements of the teachers. As a general thing, the teachers proved themselves equal to their duties. The Winter Schools, were, more or less, attended by an older and different class of scholars; many of them having arrived at the years of discretion, when the true character of the individual is manifested by word and deed. We naturally hope and expect that as our children advance in years, they will grow wiser and better; but it would seem, looking at the subject from our present stand point, that our hopes and expectations are likely to prove fallacious. We are forced to believe that the home training and culture are defective. At any rate, our schools, with one or two exceptions, indicate as much. The older scholars, as a general thing, do not appreciate the value of education; nor do they appear to regard the pecuniary sacrifice so cheerfully made by parents and guardians in their behalf as of any good account. In short, the money so hardly earned and so liberally spent for their benefit, is, in too many instances, expended to no good purpose. How much of blame for this unpleasant state of affairs may justly be charged to us, we cannot say. It may be well to interrogate ourselves a little on this subject. Do our children receive the attention at home they should, which a sense of right and duty prompt us to give them? Are they taught to discriminate between what is right and what is wrong? Do we try to convey a realizing sense of the truth that a life of virtue is alone a life of happiness?—To impress upon their minds how sinful in the sight of Heaven, how loathsome to the virtuous mind, is the indulgence of profane and vulgar language? Are they taught to be truthful, courteous, kind, respectful and mannerly to their parents,—in their intercourse with each other,—to all with whom they may come in contact, particularly their superiors in age and discretion? Do we ourselves practically live up to

our teachings? These questions, with others of like import, perhaps it were well to discuss. Again:—Would not the services of tried, practical teachers, particularly during the winter months, in view of the present educational condition of our affairs, prove of more value than the labors of the inexperienced? Are not the services of the master workman worth vastly more than those of the apprentice? Facts go to prove that we have a moral juvenile soil, of a somewhat gritty and gravelly foundation, not easily cultivated, but which, nevertheless, under the hands of practical and skillful cultivators, we have reason to believe, will produce excellent crops. Suppose we try the subsoiling system? Let us provide ourselves with a strong team and put in the moral plough “clean to the beam,”—down to the hard pan.—This surface scratching, in a moral as well as agricultural sense, is poor business.

CORPOREAL PUNISHMENT.

We do by no means favor the general and indiscriminate use of the cowhide, switch, or ruler; yet experience compels us to believe with Solomon of old, in the persuasive power of *birch* in certain cases. We think that the teacher's instructions to his pupils, when repeated over and over again, but to no purpose, ought to be enforced by personal chastisement; provided always that it shall be administered in the right spirit and to a reasonable degree. In such cases we believe it would prove both salutary and effective. Order, it has been said, is Heaven's first law, and it is the first, the last, and highest law in every well conducted school-room. We object to the constant and indiscriminate use of the weapons aforesaid. Some teachers are so lacking in discretion that in every real or imaginary offence on the part of the pupil, they manifest their displeasure in an ungentlemanly, unreasonable and violent manner. We pronounce the flogging of a scholar until the blood trickles from his hand, as barbarous and unwarrantable; and we regard the throwing of a book, or ruler, or stick of wood, or any other missile, at the head of the offender—by which act the innocent is about as likely to receive the blow, as the guilty party,—equally, and even more criminal and objectionable. How can the teacher expect to govern wisely if he allows his own temper to get the better of his understanding? Our philosophy teaches that the amount of punishment inflicted should always be in proportion to the offence committed. All beyond this we regard as vindictive and cruel. A good disciplinarian will not be likely to err in this respect, and none other should even be employed as a teacher.

DICTIONARIES.

In two or more instances, having occasion to refer to a Dictionary, we learned much to our surprise that none were to be found in the school. Most assuredly, a school without a dictionary, however well it may be supplied in other respects, is incomplete. One would naturally suppose that teachers, knowing this want, would "give no sleep to their eyes nor slumber to their eyelids," until the same was supplied; but in the cases referred to, no action was taken by them. In fact they appeared totally oblivious as to the worth and advantages to be obtained by the possession of one. A school without a dictionary? we should as soon think of putting to sea without a compass, as to take charge of a school without Webster or Worcester.

SCHOOLHOUSES.

Some six or eight years ago, we remember to have called attention to the then miserable state of our Schoolhouses. As nothing of consequence has been done towards remodeling or otherwise improving them since that time, we regard the prospect of their improvement as exceedingly dubious. We would state however for the information of those interested, that one or more of them at least, ought to be wholly disemboweled. The doors, partitions, window cases, seats and benches, are not only in a state of dilapidation; but covered, more or less, with all sorts of cabalistic, hieroglyphic, apocraphal images, pictures, designs, characters and obscenities. We sincerely hope and pray that some action will be taken forthwith to remedy this deplorable and disgraceful condition of the Schoolhouses last mentioned; and when this "consummation so devoutly to be wished," is achieved; we trust that some plan may be devised to crush out this vandalic propensity in our youth to deface, mutilate and destroy our Schoolhouses. The first boy who shall attempt any thing in this line, ought to be sent to the House of Reformation or banished to the "Dry Tortugas." If we, as a community, have any regard for morals and decency; let us resolve that a stop shall be put to this evil, at all hazards.

SUPERINTENDING COMMITTEE.

Perhaps it may be well to enlighten those who entertain the belief that the power to close a school in case the teacher shall prove incompetent, is invested in the Committee. We are possessed of no such right. It re-

main optional with the citizens of the district in which the failure occurs, whether the school shall continue or not. It devolves upon them to make the first move in the matter. A petition for a meeting for investigation and the presentation of facts, &c., connected with the case, should be got up, and if the same shall receive the signatures of a majority of the legal voters of the district, said meeting shall be held. Should the facts produced be deemed sufficient to justify the removal of the teacher, the committee must act accordingly ; otherwise not.

EDUCATION.

It should be borne in mind that the time of study is comparatively short, particularly with regard to the children of parents who are obliged to maintain themselves and families by constant toil ; and to this class the farming community in general, decidedly belongs. The time of the teacher should be devoted to the greatest good of the pupil—to those studies which will have a practical bearing upon the vocation in life which he most likely will follow. In view of all this, we contend that the studies of Latin, philosophy, physiology and perhaps some others, which some teachers are so fond of, and which, nine cases in ten, they have but a dim perception of themselves, may safely be dispensed with. We believe that the time used in these studies could be better employed. We urge the importance of first conveying a knowledge of that which we know to be of real, practical value. Those who thirst to obtain a higher knowledge than is essential to common life can be gratified by self-culture at a riper age, when the mind will be found better fitted for the reception of such knowledge. This course will prevent those who have no taste for such studies, and upon whose habits, vocations and capacities will be wholly without benefit, from wasting time in acquiring a mere smattering of information of no practical use to them, and forgotten almost immediately upon their leaving school.

The advantages which will accrue to the school by the teacher devoting all his time to the advancement of his pupils in those studies which are not only essential but absolutely and indispensably necessary, must be apparent. We well know that a difference of opinion exists with respect to the subject under discussion. Some think that a learned man is an educated man. You do not always find it so.

We regard learning as only the means, not the end ; its value consists in acquiring that which will train, stimulate and discipline the mind, and enable it to think, compare and decide accurately. Not a few of our wisest,

greatest and best men are not overstocked with learning ; but their actions prove that they are well educated. A man may study metaphysics, and the languages till the frosts of age whiten his head, and yet if he shall acquire nothing more, he will not be an educated man.

Finally—confining the minds of children wholly to school books, as though these, alone were necessary to the attainment of a good education, we regard as a great mistake. They should have constant access to good reading matter ; particularly newspapers and publications, designed for their especial benefit. At the head of this kind of reading we unhesitatingly place “ *Our Young Folks*,” as being admirably adapted to their peculiar wants, and deserving the patronage of every parent. It is observable that children who are kept well supplied with books and newspapers adapted to their capacities, are invariably better scholars and possess a much greater knowledge of matters and things in general, than those deprived of such reading. There is no class who have a stronger interest in the education of our youth than farmers ; and the subject should receive from them the attention it deserves.

Annexed is a table of statistics connected with the several schools, &c., for the year now closing. All which is respectfully submitted,

B. D. LAIGHTON,

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

STRAITHAM, March 1, 1866.

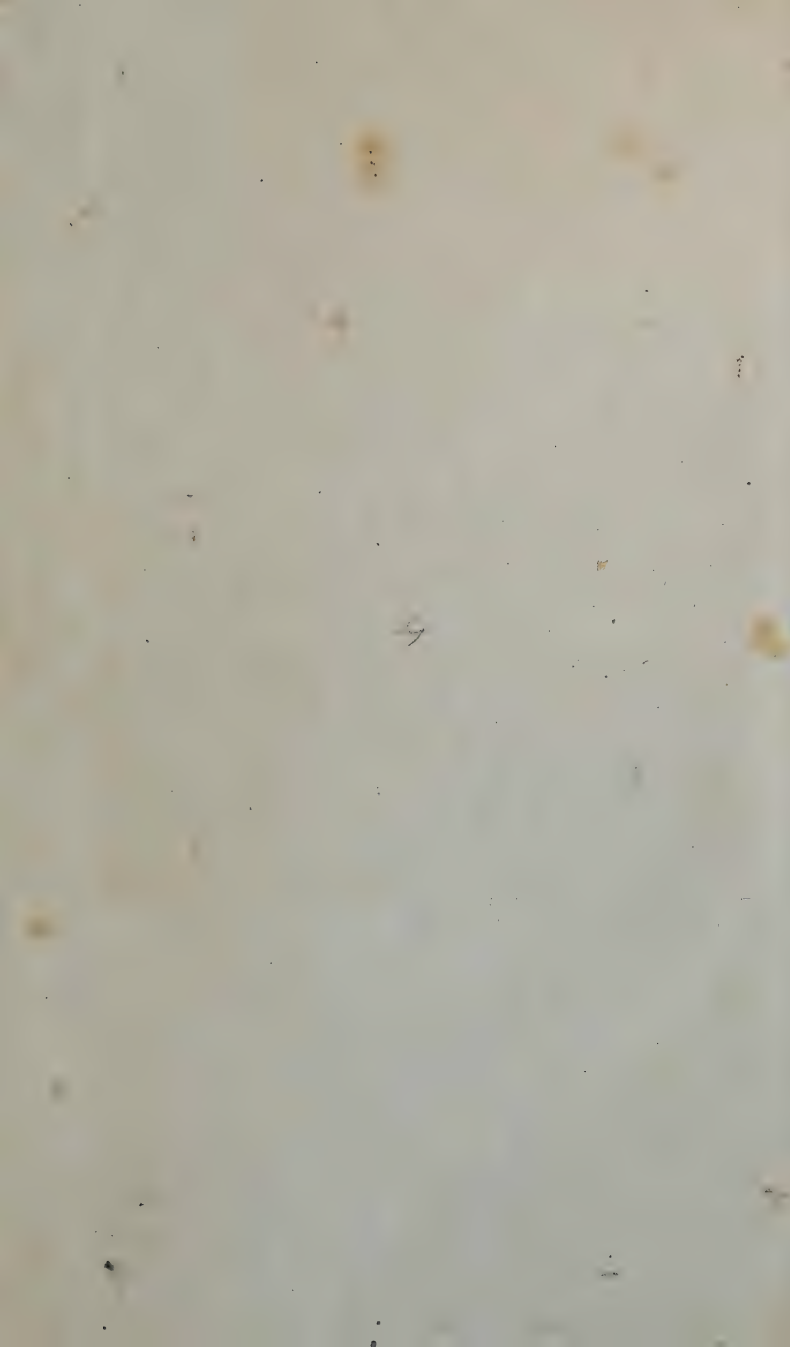
TABLE OF STATISTICS.

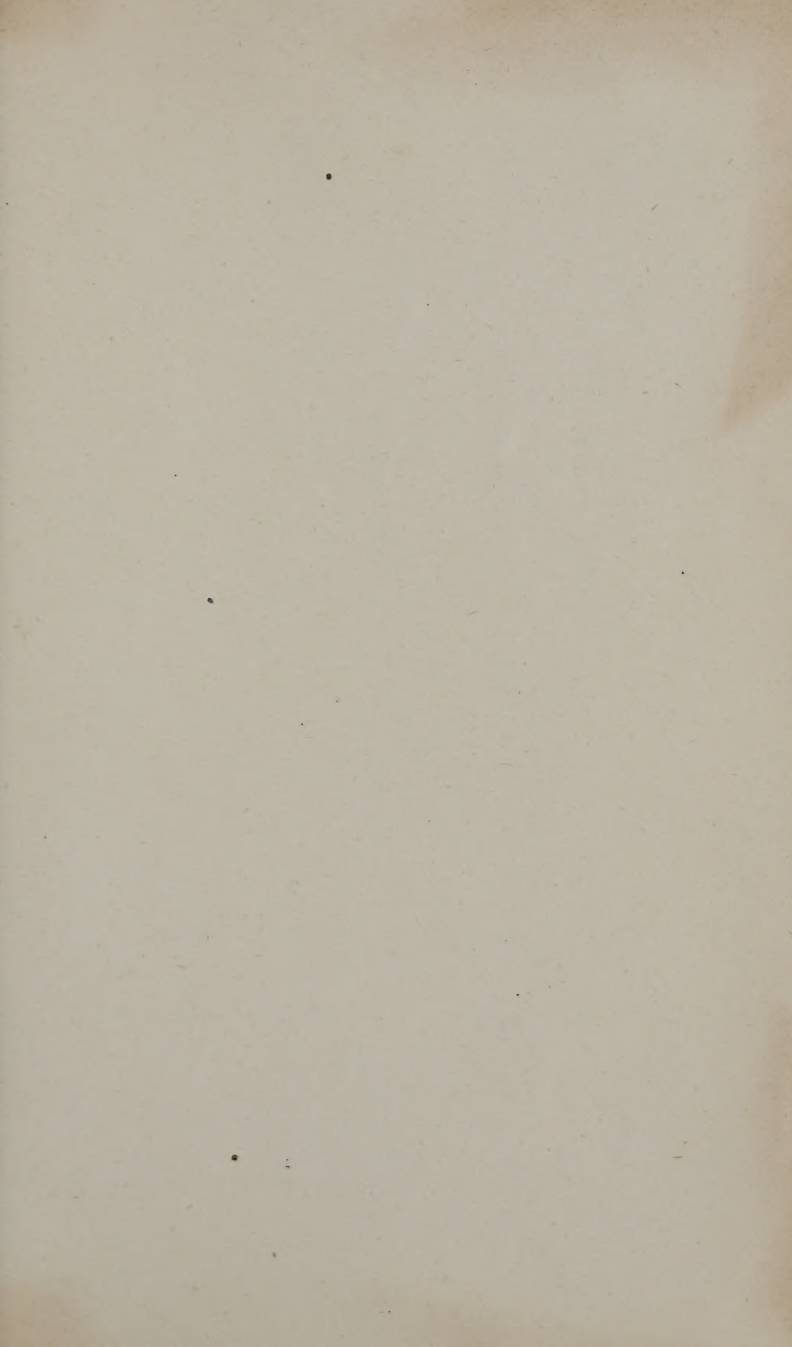
- Districts.	1	2	3	4	Total.
Length of Summer Term in weeks, - -	12	10½	13	16	51½
" " Winter " " " - -	8	10	9	13	40
Number of Scholars in Summer, - - -	46	36	34	17	133
" " " Winter, - - -	45	40	38	22	145
Average Attendance, Summer Term, - -	28	31	24	11	94
" " Winter " - -	28	36	32	12	108
Wages of Male Teachers, including board, per month, - - - - -	\$40	\$38	\$40	\$26	\$144
Wages of Female Teachers, " " - - -	\$22	\$24	\$20	\$16.50	\$82.50
Amount of Local Fund, - - - - -					
" " Income from Literary Fund, -					\$17.00
" " School money raised by Town,					
Whole amount of School money, - - -					
Visits by Superintending Committee, - -	9	7	7	6	29
" " Prudential " - -	2	1	2	1	6
" " Citizens and others, - - - -	51	50	26	29	156

[NOTE.—The Winter Term in District No. 4, was taught by Miss Dearborn.]

TEXT BOOKS.

Sargent's, Town and Holbrook's Readers ; Town's Speller and Definer ; Weld's, Brown's and Quackenbos' Grammar ; Cornell's, Colton and Fitch's Geographies ; Colburn's, Holbrook's & Greenleaf's Arithmetics ; Davies' and Greenleaf's Algebras ; Goodrich's and Worcester's Histories ; Mahew's Book Keeping ; Cutter's Physiology ; Payson's, Dutton's and Scribner's system of Penmanship.





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